

Green leader hails electoral win in B.C.

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Body

OTTAWA-The Green Party's latest electoral breakthrough sent ripples across Canadian politics Tuesday, as party leader Elizabeth May predicted voters are ready to heed her clarion call for climate action and send more Green MPs to the House of Commons.

Speaking to reporters on Parliament Hill, May said the Green victory in Monday's byelection shows party momentum from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island can translate to electoral wins at the federal level. She said the goal in this fall's general election is to earn enough seats to wield real influence in what she hopes will be a minority parliament.

"The target is to be effective, to achieve what must be achieved for the future of our children and grandchildren," said May, who has called for rapid emissions cuts and a transition away from fossil fuels to fight climate change.

She slammed the Liberal government for buying the Trans Mountain oil pipeline and keeping the greenhouse gas reduction target of their Conservative predecessors.

The byelection win in Nanaimo-Ladysmith, in which local candidate Paul Manly earned a decisive 37 per cent share of the vote, marked the first time a Green candidate other than May has been elected to the House of Commons.

May's new husband, John Kidder, announced Tuesday that he will run for the party in the sprawling B.C. riding of Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon.

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